

DeIDOT

F.Y.I.

The Capital Improvement Program and the Council on Transportation

What are they?

How do they work?

How can the public get involved?

A CLOSER LOOK...



#1
IN A
SERIES



The Council on Transportation

The Council on Transportation (COT) is a nine-member advisory panel appointed by the Governor. It is made up of business and community leaders who have expressed interest in transportation subjects and have demonstrated expertise or experience that would help in evaluating relevant issues and programs. Members donate their time and serve for three years. They are drawn from each of Delaware's three counties, with a minimum of two from each county. While current members cannot be legislators, their political party affiliation is a consideration. No prospective political party can outnumber any other political party by more than one



member. No member may be engaged in any business, employment or vocation which would create a conflict of interest in determining Delaware's transportation programs.

What the Council Does

The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Secretary and Directors of the Department of Transportation and to the Governor on issues relating to transportation and other matters which may aid the Department in providing the best possible transportation services for the traveling public.



Role of the Council on Transportation

Sets Transportation Priorities

The COT has final approval on the planning process by which the Department determines the priorities of transportation improvements.

Adopts DeIDOT's Capital Improvement Program

The COT reviews and approves DeIDOT's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) [see Side 1], making sure that the public is well-informed and involved in the planning process and that these projects are in the community's best interest.

A wide variety of projects are considered by the COT. Everything from new roads and bridges, to employer programs to encourage use of public transit, to transportation programs for persons with disabilities or senior citizens, may be put on the table. Decisions often come down to hard, but informed choices.

Approves Highway Realignments

The COT approves DeIDOT's decisions on realignments of existing highways and alignments of new highways, ensuring that the Department has followed the prescribed public process for reaching those decisions.



Reviews Certificates of Convenience & Necessity

DeIDOT issues certificates to public carriers (operators of railways, taxicabs/limousines, buses and commercial carriers), except for schools and churches, for transportation services. The COT reviews and comments on the issuance, suspension, revocation or reinstatement of these certificates.

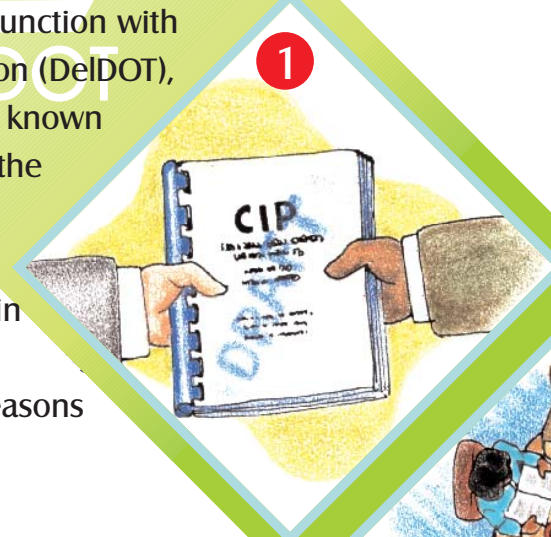


DeIDOT's Capital Improvement Program...A Closer Look

Each year, the Governor, working in conjunction with the Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT), proposes transportation-related projects, known as a "Capital Improvement Program," to the state General Assembly. Projects are selected through a preliminary prioritization process and are described in terms of anticipated costs, locations, descriptions of improvements and the reasons the projects are needed.

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a six-year program of transportation investments. The CIP includes a variety of projects intended to reduce traffic congestion, make our system safer, accommodate the needs of economic growth, and preserve the existing system in good working order. These projects must conform to the requirements of federal laws, such as the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) to reduce air pollution, or the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), linking transportation to land use planning. Each requires careful consideration on how it will impact the state's economy, environment, and quality of life. That's where the Council on Transportation — and the public — come in.

Take a closer look at how a draft Capital Improvement Program moves through the Council on Transportation (COT) to adoption, funding and implementation.

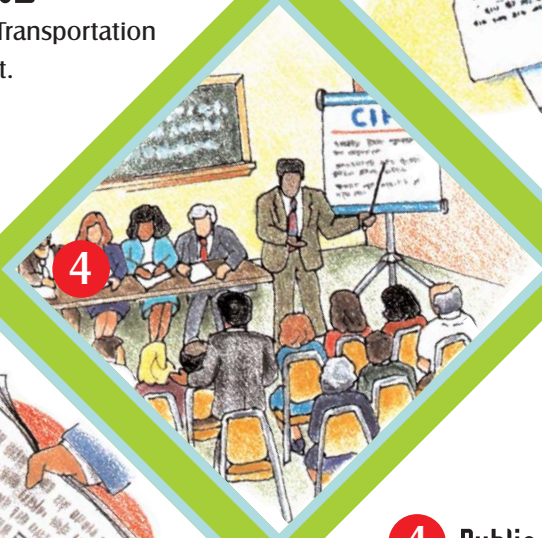


1 Draft CIP

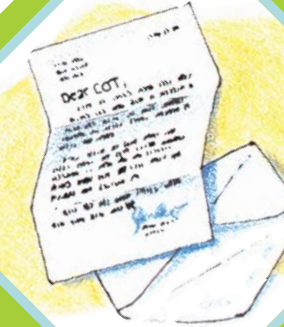
By August 31 of each year, DeIDOT presents a proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to the Council on Transportation (COT).

2 COT Review

The Council on Transportation reviews the draft.



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5 Written Comments

Written comments from interested citizens or groups continue to be taken for another 10 days after each public meeting.

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6 Revised Draft CIP

DeIDOT reviews the public comments, updates project budgets and schedules, prioritizes existing and new projects, coordinates projects and priorities with the state Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) — the WILMAPCO (New Castle County) and the Dover/Kent County MPO — and presents a revised draft CIP by mid-December.

7 Public Meetings

The Council on Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations present the revised draft to the public again in a series of public meetings in January. As in the fall, written comments are also accepted up to 10 days after each public meeting.

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8 Adopting Priorities

The Metropolitan Planning Organizations finalize and adopt their Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs).

9 COT Votes

The final Capital Improvement Program, including the TIPs, is presented to the Council on Transportation. A majority of the Council must vote to approve the proposed CIP before March 1.

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10 Approval, Funding, Implementation

The CIP is presented to the Governor and the General Assembly by March 15. If approved, the General Assembly funds the first year of the Capital Improvement Program through passage of the "Bond Bill" legislation, which applies to the upcoming fiscal year, and in July DeIDOT begins the process that will eventually lead to the implementation of individual projects.

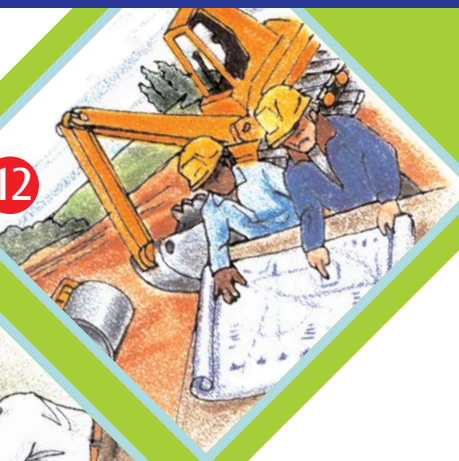
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11 Project Development

Depending on the project's scope, DeIDOT takes from several months to several years in planning, designing and developing projects prior to construction. Property, environmental, access, cost and social impacts are considered as necessary. Additional public meetings and hearings on individual projects are held to receive citizen comment. Plans are drawn up, specifications created and bids for services are received.

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12 Construction

Contractors or DeIDOT Personnel construct the project or implement the service.

#1 in a series of informational brochures
from the Delaware Department of Transportation.

For more information please contact:

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Delaware Department
of Transportation